

The Newfoundland Surveyor

December 2008

Editor – Jeff Mercer

President's Report By Wilf Thorne, NLS

This year is moving along quickly. I trust that everyone is having a successful year. Council has several things on the table and are trying to further the interest of its mandate. That is to serve the interest of the general public and to position its members to continue to deliver their services in a professional manner.

Earlier this year, ANLS met with the Crown Lands Branch to discuss their revamping of the Crown Lands Regulations. We gave them our wish list and had a very positive meeting. Some of our proposals were adopted. Other complaints about the proposed regulations were curtailed. Peter Howe of Crown Lands said that he hopes to have the new regulations implemented by the end of December 2008.

The Registry of Deeds is revamping their Registry of Deeds Act. The ANLS requested that all new deeds contain a current survey or an official copy of a survey less than ten years old. We will be having another meeting on the subject in January 2009.

The survey marker program is a big success. The program is funding our new Executive Director's position. Jeff Mercer has started and has proved to be a formidable presence in the ANLS office. He is on top of everything. He has catapulted our office in to the future. Good things are in store.

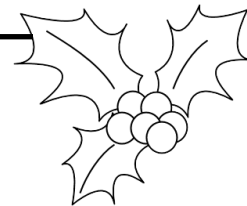
The Land Gazette is coming to fruition. A face to face meeting was held with IBL and ANLS. A couple of outstanding questions were answered and some amendments were made to the proposed agreement to endorse Land Gazette.

The Jerome Power Contracting issue was dealt with. An ad was published stating that he is not a member of ANLS and not entitled to practice legal land surveying. A letter was sent to the Real Estate Board and the Law Society, stating the same thing.

Gary Hughes attended the Manitoba AGM. There was a lot of discussion around Labour Mobility and the Futures Task Force. The federal government is pushing Labour Mobility and we need to stay ahead of it. The CCLS and CBEPS were also a hot topic.

Gary and I attended the AGM in Nova Scotia. Gary had played a major role in the Manitoba AGM regarding Labour Mobility and Future Task Force. Since I had already bought my ticket, I felt it necessary that we both attend.





The Nova Scotia Land Surveyors are rewriting their Act. It is about to receive second reading in the house. In Nova Scotia, Surveyors are not required to own 51% of their companies to get authorization to practice. There are non-licensed survey companies contracting to prepare field surveys and getting licensed surveyors to stamp their plans. Also, they were proud to announce that CBEPS has accredited their Geomatics course at the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report By Dominic Howard, NLS

I am quite pleased to update the membership on the affairs of the Association since we have embarked on a new era with the addition of an Executive Director. We have already begun to appreciate the new direction we are headed since Jeff Mercer has joined us.

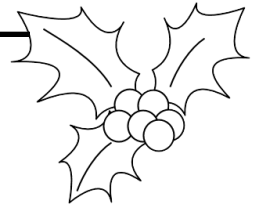
Some highlights are; Frequent meetings with different levels of government, especially with respect to the Registry of Deeds and the changes that are being proposed with that system. We have had several meetings with this group and Jeff has been in constant contact with them concerning the proposals which our committee has put forward and the representatives of the Registry are quite swift in their replies to the committee and Jeff.

Jeff has also been exploring, along with Council, means to improve the financial situation of the Association. Some of these initiatives involve funding from various levels of governments, increases in dues, increases to fees charged for the marker program, plan registry and other means which we have to explore. If we wish to move forward and to be a force to be called upon by various governments, corporations, and groups we have to put ourselves to the forefront and make these people aware that we exist in more ways than in name only. This can only be done through marketing strategies and this involves creating financial opportunities.

We are still moving forward with the IBL "Land Gazette" program and I believe we are closer than ever to having an agreement in place which will help both Land Gazette and the Association. In my mind there are no major hurdles to overcome and I believe this is an excellent program to benefit the public and our membership.

Labor Mobility is a topic that we are dealing with right now and this is a major concern across the country. Whether you believe this is good or bad, it is, and will be a fact of life in this province and around the country. Be advised that this agreement is for Canada and does not, at this time, involve international organizations or governments although I can certainly see this changing over the next number of years. Labour mobility would involve members from other associations in the country applying for membership in ANLS and allow NLS members to join other provincial associations and it would be required to write an exam which would cover legislation, government regulations and such and also association by-laws, policies and regulations. The respective provincial governments of Canada have signed on to this process and we see it coming into being in 2009.

You have heard no doubt about a National Board being set up to be the stepping stone for admission into the various associations across the country. This board already exists and has replaced the Western Board already. Ontario and Quebec are in favour. Our association has



agreed with the setup of this board along with other Atlantic provinces governed by the Atlantic Board of Examiners. The only thing remaining to do is address the syllabus with respect to a couple of courses we have in place that were not included in the national program. Expect this to become a reality in 2009 also.

More with education. We are currently speaking to College of the North Atlantic (CNA) concerning the implementation of a nine month field technician program. This course will provide training to individuals who upon graduation will be able to carry out duties required of them in field situations. Approach has also been made to construction requirements for this type of training and it is believed that the course should be successful with us and other groups involved.

We are also still interested in pursuing MUN with respect to introducing a program here that will enable students to stay in province while attaining a degree in Geomatics. This is in infancy at the moment and we have a long way to go.

Other pieces of information that you may find interesting are:

Marker sales have increased this past year as a result of our public awareness campaign and the acceptance of the membership to support this worthy endeavour. Members have finally seen fit to pass along the cost to clients whom I would think did not complain too vigorously when they realized the benefit of having these placed on their property corners. We will also be keeping up the public awareness campaign plus we will most likely be targeting the Law Society along with Real Estate Boards throughout the province.

We are in the black with respect to our budget and kudos should go to Council for striving to stay on track with respect to travel and frugality while travelling. We also hold teleconference calling when important issues do arise and have to be dealt with quickly. We also produce action sheets and hound each other constantly to ensure that the items on that sheet are carried out before the next Council meeting.

Regional Representatives are also prudent with their spending and I thank them much for being so. The membership are kept up to date on events happening within the association and costs are not through the roof.

We also have on staff Sara Schubert who is filling in as a part-timer. Sara is very good with web sites and such and is a natural with computer software. She may answer the phone every now and again if you call. Welcome Sara

I think I have covered it all and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a very safe Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. It has been my pleasure to serve you in this capacity and I hope to continue well into the future.

Thank you



Executive Director's Report
By Jeff Mercer

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. I am pleased to submit my first report to membership. Service Canada has approved some funding for the Executive Director position to assist in ensuring this will be a long term position. Further research will be done to access any other funding that may exist to strengthen and grow the ANLS.

Sara Schubert has been hired part-time to assist with reception duties and filing. She is also skilled in ensuring that the web-site and our computer systems are kept up-to-date.

Survey Marker sales have increased by about 10% and continue to be widely accepted by the profession and the general public. Increased efforts will be made to ensure full compliance.

The 2009 AGM has been confirmed to be held at The Wilds on Salmonier Line May 28-30, 2009. A joint AGM with ACLS has also been confirmed for 2010 to be held at The Fairmont Hotel in St. John's.

Work continues with CNA to implement the 9-month Technician's Course. A survey of ANLS members show there was 90%+ in favor of this course. MUN has also been contacted to start the process of discussing how we can enable students here to be able to meet all the NLS academic requirements to be met without having to leave the Province. Currently, once they do the 3-year CNA Geomatics Program, students have to go to UNB to complete the remaining academic requirements to become a NLS. UNB is also introducing a Bachelor of Geomatics degree to streamline requirements.

Labor Mobility is a high priority issue as this is due to be implemented in 2009. The general consensus is that this will be implemented and that only an exam on local knowledge and regulations will be permitted when a member from one Province applies to be a member in another Province. This is a result of an agreement signed by all Premiers' earlier this year.

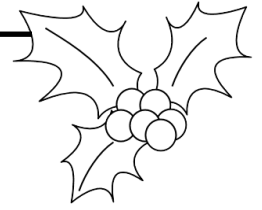
The Registry of Deeds Act is in the process of being reviewed and we have put forth issues raised by membership. Our main focus is to request that current surveys be required and that original or certified copies be required for all registrations.

An agreement-in-principle has been reached on the Land Gazette and it is hoped a formal agreement can be signed shortly. Many opportunities exist to ensure this will benefit ANLS and its members in the long-term.

Now that a full-time Executive Director is in place, our public image will be improved as we can respond to the public more readily. To assist with our image, we are in the process of updating our Logo and Web Site to bring them up to current standards. I look forward to working with everyone. There are exciting and challenging times ahead.

Jeff G. Mercer
Executive Director

**Report on 2008 Annual General Meeting
Chairman - Rennie Wakeham**



The 2008 AGM was held in St. John's at The Capital Hotel on May 8, 9, and 10. For those who attended the meetings/functions, thank you, and for those that could not, hopefully we will see you at the 2009 AGM.

As our membership numbers are declining and the average age is increasing, the AGM Committee decided to make a few changes in our AGM format. On Thursday May 8, we did not have an "icebreaker", but opted for a meet and mingle immediately following the Laser Scan Seminar on that day. I had several positive comments on the change and all seemed to enjoy it.

On Friday, May 9, there were presentations on GeoPlus (Vision DOC), CBEPS/Harmonization and CCLS future. The President's Luncheon was also held that day and Allan Chafe presented pins to the 25 year members and presented an honorary membership to Cleverly Ingram, Survey and Mapping Division, Dept of Environment and Conservation. Allan also had the pleasure of presenting a membership certificate to our newest member, Mr. Clint Rumbolt of Deer Lake. Congratulations Clint.

Saturday, May 10, the business meetings were held. There was lively discussion on the various reports and by-laws, but there was something missing, Cliff Hawco was on his way to Florida that day. Saturday evening started with a tour of the Johnson GeoCentre followed by President Allan Chafe presenting out going councillors with thank you plaques, flowers to the wives and passing the microphone to incoming president, Wilf Thorne. A B-B-Q dinner followed and guests danced the night away to DJ music. As usual, when we returned to the hotel, the hospitality suite came alive and the second party began - A good time was had by all.

The Partner Schedule saw the participants enjoying shopping, tours and luncheons in and around the capital city. Thanks to Clarice Chafe and Paula Baggs for organizing and running the partners program.

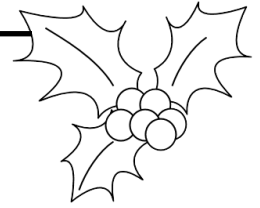
I would like to acknowledge and thank the following Sponsors and Exhibitors for their contributions and support in helping make the AGM the success it was.

Sponsors

Aubrey K. Burt Survey Ltd
Earth Information Technologies
G.M. Fitzgerald Ltd
Department of Environment and Conservation
Ronald Francis, NLS
Hawco, King, Renouf Limited
J.P. Morasse Inc
W.J. Thorne Surveys Ltd
Yates and Woods Ltd

Exhibitors

ANLS Archive Committee
Cancel Survey Equip. (Canada) Ltd
Department of Environment and Conservation
(Surveys and Mapping Division)
Leica Canada Inc.
M. Francis Kelly Ltd
Wade Company Limited



I would also like to extend a special thank you to our former Executive Assistant, Paula Baggs, for her hard work and dedication in the organizing and running of the AGM, not only this past year, but in all the years she was employed with us.

Rennie

LandGazette – Project Report

By Ian Edwards

www.landGazette.com

Availability of cadastral information in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is about to enter a new era, given the recent agreement in principle, dealing with LandGazette, between the Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors and Information Brokerage Ltd. Highlights of the agreement include:

- Official endorsement of Landgazette by the Association;
- Revenue stream to the Association;
- Establishment of a management committee made up of IBL and ANLS members;
- Ownership of the cadastral fabric will remain with the authoring surveyor;

In the interim, Landgazette will continue to operate under the existing management structure.

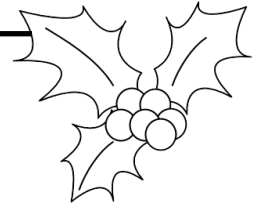
Currently, there are more than 11,000 documents, various external mapping services, provincial road network, municipal administration boundaries, LandSat imagery for the full province and high resolution satellite imagery of select areas in province available through the LandGazette system. Available functionality is operating well, with a minimal number of interruptions. During the past year the system was off-line for less than eight hours, which equates to 0.01% downtime.

IBL continues to offer full support to the LandGazette project, and are more than willing to coordinate training activities for anyone wishing to become more familiar with the functionality available through the system.

LandGazette goals for the upcoming year include the following:

- Work with Crown lands to obtain access to a Crown titles layer of information;
- Work with the Registry of Deeds to established linkages between the LandGazette and CADO systems.
- Improve functionality for the input of natural boundaries and heads-up digitizing.

Respectively submitted,
Ian Edwards, NLS. CLS. P. Eng.



Regional Meetings
Jeff G. Mercer, Executive Director

Four regional meetings were held this year; 2 Eastern, 1 Western and 1 Central to update members across the Province on the activities of ANLS. The people responsible for each region are:

Allan Chafe, Eastern
Arch Forsey, Western
Terry Yates, Central

Topics discussed at these meetings included:

- Update and introduction of new Executive Director
- Crown Lands Standards and Regulations
- Registry of Deeds changes to the Act
- College of the North Atlantic 9-month Technicians Program
- Labor Mobility
- Complaints Issues and Processes

Turn- out was very low at these meetings and it is hoped that more people will participate in future meetings. With a full-time Executive Director now in place, we are increasingly active and able to move forward more quickly as issues arise. Your input as members is very important.

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON





By-Laws Committee Report By Robin Davis

The By-Law Committee is made up of the following people: Arch Forsey, Clint Rumbolt, Robert Locke and Robin Davis. The Committee will be assisted by our Executive Director, Jeff Mercer. We will once again be going over the By-Laws, Regulations and Manual of Practice to see if any further adjustments are required this year. We have done a little preliminary work but have not yet met to discuss our findings to date or plan our approach.

Please remember that any Member in good standing can propose amendments to the By-Laws provided that the amendments are in the hands of all our Members 60 days prior to our Annual Meeting. If anyone has an amendment to propose and would like to run it by our Committee, please feel free to contact one of the above. Also keep in mind that you can vote by Proxy if you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the By-Laws Committee, I would like to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Robin Davis
Chairman, By-Laws Committee

College of the North Atlantic Scholarships

On November 20, 2008, Gary Hughes, ANLS Vice-President, attended the CoNA awards ceremonies and was very proud to present the following two scholarships:

ANLS Scholarship	-	Maggie Coombs
Peter J. Berghuis, NLS Scholarship	-	Michelle Pynn

Additionally, CoNA also presented the following scholarship:

Alberta Land Surveyor's Scholarship	-	Jennifer Strowbridge
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ANLS congratulates the recipients of these scholarships and their hard work. Hopefully, we will see these people working in Newfoundland in the future.

CoNA 9-Month Technician Program **By Allan Chafe**

During the past year, meetings were held with the College of the North Atlantic regarding the formulation and implementation of a 9-month field technician program. A survey of membership was undertaken that was responded to by 40% of you that indicated over 90% support for such a program. Based on this and their ongoing work, CoNA has now approved the development of this program. A focus group meeting will be held in January 2009 to decide the basic scope and direction of this program.

The program is to be tailored towards producing field personnel trained with academic, and group lab practical skills, that would allow them to be employed by survey firms, construction firms, and the like. It is anticipated that with minimum on-the-job training, graduates of the program would be capable of managing a field crew using the latest equipment from project start up through to completion.

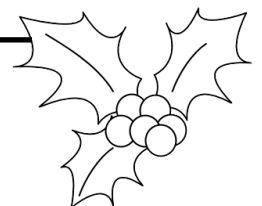
It is understood that in order to fully realize this expectation, once graduates secure employment with a surveying firm, there would be a standard probationary period whereby the employee would be trained further in the day to day operations of the firm and develop additional on-the-job practical field crew skills that would allow them to reach their full potential. (i.e. Without prior survey experience, a person would indeed have to be unique to graduate and immediately assume the full responsibility of a survey crew.)

The program would include courses in:

- Plane Surveying;
- Construction Surveying;
- GPS;
- CAD;
- Various software; currently CONA has Micro Survey and Land Development Desktop;
- etc

If you indicated you would like to participate in the focus groups you will be contacted shortly. If you are now interested please contact our office ASAP.

Allan Chafe N.L.S.
Past-President





Notes from the Office

ANLS Webpage

www.surveyors.nf.ca

The ANLS webpage is designed for you, the members, and the public of Newfoundland and Labrador to use. We continue to improve our site by posting any current information we feel is important. To keep the site up to date, please inform the office if you have any changes in personal information. Any comments are greatly appreciated.

Membership Dues

The 2009 Annual Membership Dues have been sent out (enclosed) and are due as of January 1, 2009 and payable no later than March 31, 2009.

AGM 2009

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Your AGM Committee has set the location and time for the 2008 AGM.

May 28, 29, 30 2009

The Wilds

Salmonier Line

www.thewilds.ca



***On behalf of your 2008-2009
Council,
Seasons Greetings***

